

**REMARKS**

Applicant submits corrected drawings herewith having proper margins.

Claims 1-16 are in the application. Claims 10-16 have been allowed. Claim 1 stands rejected. Claims 2-9 have been objected to.

Claim 1 stands rejected over US 5,791,302 to Ma. Examiner states that Ma discloses a variable compression ratio connecting rod having an adjustable four-bar system 20,22,20',22' extending between and linking the large and small ends of the rod, so as to permit the length of the connecting rod to be adjusted. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests that Claim 1 be considered in view of these remarks and passed to issue over the Examiner's rejection.

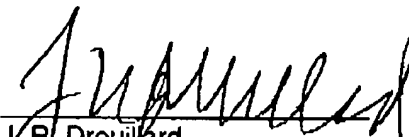
Ma '302, which is assigned to the assignee of the present invention, discloses two pairs of links 20,22,20',22'. However, the links do not function as four independent links. Rather, the links function in pairs as two independent links. Note in this regard from Figure 2 that links 22 and 22' are formed as one piece moveable only as a single link. In other words, 22' is merely part of 22. And, 20' is part of 20. Thus, as shown in Ma's Figure 3, Ma discloses a three-bar link mechanism including links 14-16, 14-18, and 16-18, which functions in a manner quite unlike Applicant's device. As a result, Ma cannot comprise a colorable basis for the rejection of Claim 1. Claim 1 should accordingly be passed to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited. Similarly, Claims 2-9, all of which depend from Claim 1, are allowable over Ma '302, and should be passed to issue. Issuance of Claims 1-9 is therefore solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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